

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07334 251550Z

62

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

FTC-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 /135 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD EEC

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON US ANTIDUMPING AND OTHER TRADE
ACTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 226390 (B) GENEVA 7281 (NOTAL) (C) USEC BRUSSELS 8521
(NOTAL) (D) OECD PARIS 24770

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07334 251550Z

BEGIN SUMMARY. EC, JAPAN, OTHERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER

INCREASED ACTIVITY IN US ON IMPORT TRADE ACTIONS--
ESCAPE CLAUSE, SECTION 301, COUNTERVAILING AND ANTIDUMPING--
AND ASKED EARLIER-THAN-PLANNED SESSION OF ANTIDUMPING
COMMITTEE. LATTER THUS SCHEDULED BEGIN OCTOBER 21.
END SUMMARY.

1. AS "OTHER BUSINESS" ITEM AT SEPTEMBER 25 GATT
COUNCIL, EC (LUYTEN) SAID THEY CONCERNED
BY DEVELOPMENTS IN US TRADE POLICY INVOLVING COUNTER-
VAILING DUTY, ANTIDUMPING, SAFEGUARD, AND SECTION 301
INVESTIGATIONS. EC PROFESSED TO BE SEEING " IN ALL
LIKELIHOOD THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF REQUESTS TO
IMPLEMENT SECTION 301 ON PRACTICES ALLEGED TO BE UNFAIR."

2. EC SAID IN CERTAIN CASES (NOT SPECIFIED) US
ADMINISTRATION ALREADY HAD HAD TO TAKE STAND AND RESULTS
WERE "FAR FROM REASSURING", SAID EC EXPORTS
POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY ALL ACTION \$4.3 BILLION OR
OVER ONE FIFTH OF EC EXPORTS TO US, NOTED UNCERTAINTIS AND
LEGAL EXPENSES FACING EC EXPORTERS, AND WARNED OF
BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL REPERCUSSIONS. EC ASKED
EARLY MEETING OF GATT ANTIDUMPING COMMITTEE "BECAUSE OF
THESE DEVELOPMENTS, SPECIALLY WITH RESPECT ANTIDUMPING."

3. JAPAN SAID ACTIONS BY IMPORTANT COUNTRIES COULD
TRIGGER PROTECTIONISM BY OTHER AND TREATED US TO
PROVERB ON IRONIES OF IMPORTANT TASK OF RESISTING
PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES: "GOOD MEDICINE TASTES
BITTER". JAPAN JOINTED CALL FOR EARLY ANTIDUMPING
COMMITTEE MEETING. SWEDEN, SAPIN JOINED IN EXPRESSING
GENERAL CONCERN AND CALL FOR EARLY ANTIDUMPING MEETING.

4. CANADA, WHICH HAD WARNED US AHEAD THAT THEY WOULD
JOIN IN EXPRESSING OVERALL CONCERN (REFTEL (B)) TOLD
US PRIVATELY THEY GOT LAST-MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO
DO SO. THEY SIMPLY SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO ADVANCE
ANTIDUMPING COMMITTEE MEETING DATE.

5. US TOOK NOTE OF STATEMENTS AND PROMISED REPORT
SAME TO AUTHORITIES. WE EMPHASIZED THESE WERE IN-
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 07334 251550Z

VESTIGATIONS AND NOT ACTIONS, THAT THE INITIATIVES
ORIGINATED OUTSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION AND INVOLVE
STANDARD PROCDURES, AND ANY DECISIONS THE US TAKES
WILL FOLLOW DUE PROCESS. WE SAID ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
HAV OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT FACTS AND VIEWS AND NOTED
SOME OF INVESTIGATIONS WERE IN RESPONSE TO CHARGES OF
UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

6. US ASSURED COUNCIL THAT DECISIONS WOULD BE REACHED OBJECTIVELY AND ON BASIS OF FACTS, THAT CONDUCTING OF THESE NORMAL PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS INDICATION OF CHANGE IN US TRADE POLICIES. WE SAID US ACTIONS WERE CONSISTENT WITH GATT ANTI-DUMPING CODE BUT WE HAD NO OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATING IN EARLIER THAN PREVIOUSLY PLANNED REGULAR MEETING OF ANTIDUMPING COMMITTEE.

7. COUNCIL AGREED ANTIDUMPING COMMITTEE WILL MEET OCTOBER 21-24. DAL

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